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if it is used in a course which follows or accompanies a course in American history, as the authors intend. Many subjects are covered and a good deal of elementary knowledge is necessary for their understanding. The book certainly calls for a well-trained teacher. In the hands of the right kind of instructor it should prove an inspiring text. But how many instructors of civics of this kind are there in the high schools?

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*The Eve of Election.* By JOHN B. HOWE. (New York: The Macmillan Company. Pp. 283.)

The title of this book is taken from the title of one of the author's favorite poems of Whittier. The book, like the poem, deals with the responsibility of the elective franchise, both book and poem being prompted by the conviction that "the kingliest act of Freedom is the freeman's vote." The author believes that there is a seed time and harvest in voting and that the time for the sower and his seed is before the eve of election. The volume is written with new voters in mind—the young men coming on, and now the women of varied ages, in ever increasing numbers. The book is written in an interesting and readable style, and it presents the elements of knowledge which intelligent voters need, about the Constitution, the federal government, the electoral college, methods of voting, and state and city government. There is a brief summary of our party history, of women's "battle for the franchise," and a discussion of recent experiments and growth in democracy, dealing with such topics as party primaries, the boss, the referendum, and the recall. The chapters are only brief running accounts but they are remarkably well done and they supply a surprising amount of valuable information to the lay reader, considering the very limited space which the author has allowed himself.

Mr. Howe writes with a spirit of fairness, his perspective is good, and he presents the essentials of his subject with knowledge and accuracy. Only on minor points would a critic take exception to the accuracy of his history. It was not in October but in September that Roosevelt became President. Greeley did not die before the election of 1872, as the author indicates immediately following the misstatement. For the pioneers of woman's suffrage the author might have gone back nearly two decades beyond Mrs. Stanton and Miss Susan B. Anthony, to Robert Owen and Fanny Wright. Early state constitutions were

not "sanctioned at the polls," and it may be seriously doubted whether "faith in the people inspired the whole convention" of 1787. Other flaws might be found by an historical critic, but they may be pardoned to journalistic license, since they do not seriously vitiate the general merits and usefulness of the book. Advocates of the referendum will take positive exception to Mr. Howe's treatment of that subject. "Transforming the average citizen offhand by constitutional fiat into a doctor, a civil engineer or an architect" is hardly analogous to allowing the people to vote on public policies. One wonders what kind of experts the author thinks usually sit in our legislative halls, or whether he thinks only lawyers should sit there. Expert legal draftsmen (who are usually outside legislative halls) are needed under any system of legislation, direct or indirect.

The volume has no index, which indicates the journalistic character of the work. The appendix contains "information for first voters summarized from the election law of New York State." The book is well worth the reading of citizens, young or old.

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*A Republic of Nations.* By RALEIGH C. MINOR. (New York: Oxford University Press. 1918. Pp. xxxiii, 316.)

The present volume is based upon the belief of the author that the only effective means by which an international court could be created with jurisdiction over those disputes between nations which give rise to war would be the formation of "some sort of federal union of nations." As a result of such a union the "political" controversies which have been in the past the cause of war and which have been excepted from arbitration treaties as being nonjusticiable would be eliminated, and such disputes as might thereafter arise between the nations would be legal and justiciable by reason of being covered by the constitution of the federal union. The elimination of political disputes would be brought about by the surrender to the union of those political powers of the several states the exercise of which leads to war, that is to say, the power to control commerce between the component nations, to acquire territory of other states, to mistreat their citizens, to lay burdens upon imports and exports, to maintain armaments in excess of a fixed proportion, to make treaties of alliance, and to declare war.